

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 5, 13, 14, 18 and 26 have been amended. Claims 7 and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 1-6, 8-19 and 21-16 are now pending and under consideration.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed below and reconsideration is earnestly requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

On pages 2-8 of the Action, claims 1-6, 11, 13-19, 24 and 26 are rejected as being unpatentable over previously-cited Takakura et al. (U.S. 2002/0007396) in view of newly-cited Tsou et al. (U.S. 2002/0184089).

On page 3 of the Action, the Examiner notes that Takakura et al. (hereinafter "Takakura") does not disclose accepting a remark request, with the current location of the terminal attached, as recited in independent claim 1, for example. Thus, Tsou et al. (hereinafter "Tsou") is cited as disclosing this feature.

However, the cited portions of Tsou merely state that a user 214 can receive updated presence information (step 2), which includes location information (e.g., Pasta House), sent by the IM client 212. The IM server 302 notifies one or more additional instant messaging users who have added the particular user 214 to their address list that there is an update of the presence information of the user 214. (See Tsou, page 4, paragraphs [0042]-[0043]). Thereafter, another user 306 may display the updated presence information of user 214, and the other user 306 may select the new presence information to get additional business information of the business (e.g., "Pasta House"). (See page 4, paragraph [0044]).

That is, the device of Tsou is merely capable of sending the user's new presence information to other instant messaging users so that the other users are aware of the user's updated presence and can select the presence information to obtain advertisements of business. However, Tsou does not teach or even suggest accepting a *remark request*, with the current location of the terminal attached. In fact, Tsou makes no mention of a remark request at all.

In contrast, embodiments of the present invention are characterized by accepting a remark request, with the current location of the terminal attached, from said terminal for permission to make a remark, and delivering the remark, in the form of text data, to terminals of the other participants of said area chat room with the location of said terminal attached. That is,

the terminal of the user attaches the current location of the terminal to a request to make a remark.

For further clarification, independent claims 1, 5, 13, 14, 18 and 26 are amended herein to recite that the remark request is accepted, with the current location of the terminal attached by said terminal, from said terminal for permission to make a remark. As a result, we believe the rejections thereof, as well as the rejections of the pending dependent claims, may be overcome.

Further, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that Kelts (U.S. 2002/0112237) teaches indicating the charted location of the latest speaker by a shape, color, or method different from those for other speakers when charting the locations of the participants who are in said area chat room, as recited in dependent claims 7 and 20.

As the Examiner states, Kelts teaches merely changing the color of map items that represent different types of programming genres or different programming characteristics. Kelts does not relate to chat rooms, and does not teach or even suggest the indicated charted location of the *latest speaker*.

Dependent claims 7 and 20 are cancelled herein; however, the features thereof are incorporated into independent claims 5 and 18, respectively, thereby further distinguishing independent claims 5 and 18 over the prior art.

Therefore, it is submitted that independent claims 1, 5, 13, 14, 18 and 26 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

Dependent claims 2-4, 6, 11, 15-17, 19 and 24 inherit the patentability of their respective base claim and are patentably distinguish over the prior art at least for the same reasons previously discussed.

On pages 8-9 of the final Action, claims 7-10 and 20-23 are rejected as being unpatentable over Takakura and Tsou as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of Kelts (U.S. 2002/0112237).

Claims 7-10 depend from claim 5 and claims 20-23 depend from claim 18. Thus, dependent claims 7-10 and 20-23 are patentable for at least the reasons provided above.

As stated above, dependent claims 7 and 20 are cancelled herein and the features thereof are incorporated into independent claims 5 and 18.

Claims 8-10 and 21-23 depend from claims 5 or 18 and, accordingly, it is submitted that claims 8-10 and 21-23 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

On page 10 of the final Action, claims 12 and 25 are rejected as being unpatentable over Takakura and Tsou as applied to claims 5 and 18 above, and further in view of Hatlelid (U.S. Patent No. 6,772,195).

Claims 12 and 25 depend from claims 5 and 18, respectively. Thus, for at least the reasons provided above for independent claims 5 and 18, the rejections of claims 12 and 25 are also traversed. It is further submitted that Hatlelid fails to teach or suggest the features of the independent claims 5 and 18 discussed herein.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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